**Minnesota
House of
Representatives**

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comment Deadlines Established Regarding the LightSquared Technical Working Group Report, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to ask the Commission's help to bring reliable broadband Internet and cell phone coverage in rural communities.

I represent a rural legislative district in the far southwest corner of Minnesota bordering both Iowa and South Dakota. My constituents, who live in Rock, Pipestone, Murray and Nobles Counties live in small towns and farms. Much of my district is a "dead zone" that has no cell phone coverage. Much of my district also has no wireless broadband internet service. These deficits are a problem for ambulance crews, state and county police and others that must respond swiftly to emergency situations. They also limit the types of employers that can start and grow in rural communities.

LightSquared is seeking authorization from the Commission to establish a nationwide satellite network that will address this lack of access. This is good news, since the small rural communities I represent are lagging behind urban centers in technology jobs and good cell coverage.

America faces global challenges and competition to create, attract and retain high-tech jobs. Businesses in my district aren't competing with just other Minnesota companies or U.S. companies. They are competing with companies from around the world. My district needs jobs, but the lack of access to wireless broadband internet and cell phone coverage is making it difficult for these jobs to come to my district. Please support the proposal by LightSquared to provide opportunities and options for rural America.

Sincerely,

Joe Schomacker
State Representative

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